

Look, a strong bipartisan substitute—a Dodd-McCain-Hatch-Feinstein-Gorton-Wyden-Bennett substitute—has been crafted. This substitute is carefully drafted to assure an appropriate balance between the rights of citizens to bring suits for compensation and the need to protect the high tech community from onerous and wasteful litigation. This is a fair resolution of differences between Democrats and Republicans. I hope—for the sake of our Nation—that the minority allows us to debate this provision.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 254

Mr. LOTT. So for the sake of discussions, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume consideration of the juvenile justice bill, and there be 10 amendments in order per side to be selected from the amendments in order pursuant to the previous consent of May 14, and passage occur by 12 noon, Wednesday, May 19.

Mr. LEAHY. Reserving the right to object—and my distinguished friend from Mississippi discussed this with me before during the vote—and as I have told my friend from Mississippi and my friend from Utah, we are continuing to work to whittle down the number of amendments certainly on our side. As I had assured my friend from Utah over the weekend, I and my staff have spent a lot of time talking to Democratic Members, and we have cut out a number of amendments.

I do want to see this bill completed. I do want a good juvenile justice bill. Also, I want to get us on to Y2K, as the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, said he is in favor of the Y2K bill. He is in favor of going immediately, after juvenile justice, to the Y2K bill.

The distinguished majority leader is absolutely right in what he said about the supplemental. I suspect—I have not talked with Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD—that is going to go fairly rapidly.

We are going to have our caucus luncheons. The distinguished Senator from North Carolina wishes to begin a series of justly-deserved tributes to the admiral. I ask the distinguished leader if he would withdraw for now the unanimous consent agreement, let us work during our caucus luncheons with other Members to try to get this up so we can accommodate both the Republican and Democratic side, get amendments voted up or down, and get the bill voted up or down.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, based on that request and a full measure of trying to be reasonable and get an agreement to get this worked out and completed, because I think juvenile crime in this country is a very serious issue, for the Senate to not deal with it seriously and to complete action would be indefensible.

My problem, as the majority leader, is that we have the supplemental,

which is not going to be completed in 2 hours. This bill is going to take some discussion. I think it is a tragedy that we are not going to do the Y2K issue, but I am interested in getting a result. I think if we can get some cooperation, we can achieve that.

Keep in mind that we have had some 25 amendments, I believe, that have been offered and debated. This would call for 20 more. That is 45 amendments on a bill that has been in the making for 2 years. So I think my request is reasonable, and it is my third or fourth attempt to find some sort of time agreement.

I thought and was assured that we would work to complete this bill last Thursday. That didn't work out. And I understand. Sometimes the leadership on both sides of the aisle has goals we wish to achieve, but the rest of the troops don't necessarily follow and fall in line, so we can't quite fulfill that commitment. But the suggestion was made, well, we will have amendments Friday and Monday, and we would vote on a series of amendments Tuesday morning, final passage by noon. That was objected to. Then we said, how about 5, with more amendments after the stacked votes on Tuesday morning. That was objected to. Then I said 6. That was objected to.

Now I am saying, how about getting what we have standing, 20 more amendments, and complete it by noon on Wednesday so we can go to the supplemental. I think I am bending over backwards, not because I want more of the type of debate that I heard last week where Senators even object to a Senator amending their own amendment. I didn't realize that happened in the Senate. I was very disappointed with that action. But instead, we must come together and seriously try to deal with this problem.

I know there are Senators on both sides of the aisle who want to do that, and I am anxious to find a way to get it done and get it completed. I will withhold this request. I hope the managers will work through this, while we are having this very well-deserved tribute to Admiral Nance, and then after the luncheon hopefully we can wrap up some agreement.

Mr. LEAHY. If the distinguished leader will yield further, I will be very brief. In my 25 years here, I have seen majority leaders, distinguished majority leaders, both Republican and Democrat, try to whittle down bills in time, and usually when they propose time agreements, the number of amendments has expanded. In this case, I say the good news for the distinguished Senator from Mississippi is, each time he has done this, actually the numbers have dwindled, and dwindle and dwindle.

I suggest that perhaps the distinguished Senator from Utah and I continue our efforts and report to our respective leaders after the caucus where we stand.

I see the distinguished Senator from Utah on the floor. I know that he wants the floor, and so I will yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I really appreciate the majority leader and his patience and forbearance, because this bill is now in its sixth day. That is more than we give to most bills in the Senate, unless they are just hotly contested. This is one that should not be hotly contested. Everybody ought to be for this bill.

Mr. President, yesterday I read a quote from a recent New York Times editorial, and I would like to read it again, prior to the time for Senator HELMS.

This is from the New York Times editorial:

In the past it was not hard to be struck by the way time seemed to roll over a tragedy like a school shooting, by the disparity between the enduring grief of parents who lost children in places like Paducah and Jonesboro and the swift distraction of the rest of us. This time, perhaps, things may be different. The Littleton shootings have forced upon the nation a feeling that many parents know all too well—that of inhabiting the very culture they are trying to protect their children from. . . . The urge to do something about youth violence is very strong . . . but it will require an urge to do many things, and to do them with considerable ingenuity and dedication, before symptomatic violence of the kind that occurred in Littleton begins to seem truly improbable, not just as unlikely as the last shooting.

That was the New York Times, May 11, 1999. While I may not agree with the Times on everything, I doubt I could have described any better the task we have taken on. This issue is a complex problem and one which requires dedication, a spirit of cooperation, and an agreed upon set of objectives.

I believe that spirit of cooperation has been lacking somewhat as this is the sixth day we are on this bill and, as of this morning, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle still had over 25 amendments. Now, my friend from Vermont has indicated that he is working to try and get those cut down. I hope he is successful. I have spent several days urging Republicans not to offer their amendments—most have been agreeable—in the hopes that my colleagues on the other side would reciprocate. I spent the weekend here, and my staff was here working around the clock. We heard nothing from the other side during that time. Indeed, we were told by them that staff would not be coming in to meet with us at that time.

Now, perhaps they were trying to work on the Democrat amendments. Certainly, the distinguished Senator from Vermont says that is what he was doing. But frankly, we were prepared to work and cut these matters down and get this whole matter completed.

In fairness, we have been given some suggested changes to the underlying bill. We were given those suggestions late yesterday. I would be willing to accept a number of them if it meant we

could pass this bill by a date certain. As well, staff has been working to clear several amendments as part of a managers' package of amendments, which I hope Senator LEAHY and I can do. Still, we have been given no commitment, assurances, or even a hint that my colleagues will agree to a vote on a time or date certain. This bill is too important to be treated this way. The problem of juvenile crime and the victims of juvenile crime deserve better.

We should pass this bill, but there are a number on the other side who want to pull this bill down. You hear a lot of posturing about the gun lobby, which is complete nonsense. Let's just review the facts.

The President's gun package was framed as essentially containing the following elements: Gun show loopholes; permanent Brady; one gun a month; juvenile Brady; juvenile possession of assault weapons, increase the age to 21; child access to guns, liability; safety locks; increase penalties for guns to juveniles; firearms tracing; youth crime gun initiative; gun kingpins penalties; and a clip ban.

More than half of the President's so-called "plan" has been acted on by the Senate or is contained in a pending amendment. In other words, we have agreed to a unanimous consent agreement limiting amendments which allows for the remaining elements of the President's plan to be offered.

So the question is, Where is the President on this issue? Republicans want to let this plan be voted on, but his allies in the Senate do not appear eager to move forward. I hope they will.

I believe my colleague from Vermont when he says that, given some time and through the caucuses today, we probably can get this resolved, or at least he hopes we can. I do also. We have to get it resolved.

We are not trying to avoid the gun issue. I think some are concerned how this bill, with its reforms of the entertainment industry, will be received by their friends in Hollywood. That is something I think really bothers some on the other side. It bothers me, too. But we are doing some things that really are valuable, really viable, really worthwhile, and really allow for voluntary compliance and an approach that really will work in the best interests of the entertainment industry.

Given the seriousness of this problem, and the number of warning signs that future tragedies may be imminent—we are announcing them daily—we cannot afford to filibuster this bill through amendment. We should not play politics with this bill. Instead, we should come together and pass this bill. I am certainly hopeful that that is what we are going to get done either today or tomorrow.

I think the majority leader has been more than accommodating on this. He has indicated that he can only give so much time to this because there are so many other pending bills. The distin-

guished Senator from Vermont and I both know that we have to bring up the bankruptcy bill, the Satellite Home Viewer Act, in addition to all these very important issues that involve the national defense and our people who are serving in the Balkan crisis, and, of course, the supplemental appropriations bill. We only have a limited time in which to do it.

So it is good that we get together today and get this matter resolved. I don't think we could have had a more cooperative majority leader, under the circumstances. We stand ready, willing, and able to work with our colleagues on the other side to try to narrow these amendments and, of course, work with them to try to get some of these problems solved that they think are so serious.

I might add that a number of these gun amendments were already in the bill; juvenile Brady is a prime example. We had that already in the bill. You would think, from the President's remarks, that it wasn't part of our bill. We have worked on this bill for 2 years. I want it to be bipartisan; I want our Democratic colleagues to be part of this; I want them to feel good after it is all done. We have made every effort to try to accommodate them. But to have this thing go on for another day or two is basically not right, under the circumstances.

So I hope we can get together, and I hope we will work together and get our staffs together, and I hope we will resolve this either today or tomorrow.

I yield the floor.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I know the distinguished Senator from Utah would not want to leave a wrong impression about what has happened, so perhaps I might flesh out his remarks just a tad.

One, it should be noted that every single Democratic Senator wants to see a juvenile justice bill passed. The comments about pulling the bill down have all come from the Republican side of the aisle, not from the Democratic side of the aisle.

As far as working on this, I am not sure to what the Senator is referring. I don't know when I have spent so much time on the phone, the computer and e-mails, and on a bill as I have this past weekend. Our staffs have worked late into the night. We were given a wish list from the Republican staff, as was appropriately done at the beginning of the weekend. We worked on that all weekend long, calling Senators all over the country on it. As of last night, we had cleared 40 amendments. That is progress. That is very significant progress.

Now, the distinguished Senator from Utah said on the talk shows this weekend that they need seven amendments on the Republican side. Four were introduced yesterday, but this morning there are suddenly 10. We have kind of floating numbers here. But the facts are such that we have been working and we have cleared a very large num-

ber of amendments that Senators never have to see.

The last crime bill took 12 days. There were 99 amendments. We walked through it, and we did it. I remember being on that committee of conference, and the distinguished Senator from Utah may recall that we were there until 3, 4, 5 o'clock in the morning. These were complex issues, but we got it done. The crime rate has been coming down for 6 years—something that I have not seen under any other administration before—Republican or Democrat. So we can get somewhere on this.

We have significant issues in here. Every single Member on this side of the aisle is committed to seeing a juvenile justice bill passed. We want to go on to debate and vote on Y2K. The majority leader is correct in saying the supplemental has to be passed. We are not trying to delay it. I assure my friend from Utah that an enormous amount of work was done this weekend, and it was done until very late last night. I think my last e-mail on this came through to me at about 12:30, 12:45 this morning. We are getting it done.

Now, the distinguished Senator from North Carolina has been sitting here patiently and wishes to speak about a lifetime friend, a man who deserves a great deal of honor and praise by this Senate from both sides. I think we would do the Senate well and the memory of the great man well by both of us holding this debate until after the caucus. I thank the distinguished Senator from North Carolina for his courtesy, which was doubly helpful this morning because I know this is a difficult time for him.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to morning business for 60 minutes, under the control of the Senator from North Carolina, Mr. HELMS, for a special order in memory of Adm. Bud Nance.

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO ADMIRAL BUD NANCE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, let me take note that members of Adm. Nance's family are in the family gallery. While the rules prohibit my saying anything to them, I think they know that our deepest sympathy goes to them from us.

Mr. President, when I heard the sound of Dr. Elaine Sloand's quiet voice on the other end of the line at about 3:30 in the afternoon a week ago, I detected an unmistakable sadness in it. I tried to brace myself for the bad news that had been expected for a day or so. Dr. Sloand, a wonderful, great, kind and compassionate physician, had done everything within her power to save Bud Nance's life. Many others at the National Institutes of Health had